



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Members of the House Standing Committee on Health Policy

FROM: Sharon Claytor Peters, President and CEO

SUBJECT: HR 201 and HCR 51

Michigan's Children strongly supports HR 201 and HCR 51, and thanks you for your advocacy for the children of Michigan. More than 30,000 Michigan children currently rely on MICHild for basic preventive and other health care, and an additional 80,000 are eligible but not yet covered.

An estimated 160,000 Michigan children currently have no health care insurance. Nearly two-thirds of these children are eligible for MICHild or Medicaid but remain unenrolled because of a lack of funding. SCHIP offers many of these children the chance to go to a doctor's office instead of an emergency room, or to receive preventive dental care instead of suffering from toothaches because their parents can't afford the dentist's bill.

We believe that the bipartisan and bicameral support for strong SCHIP reauthorization legislation was a huge step forward in ensuring the health and thus, the futures, of our most vulnerable children in Michigan. We are deeply disappointed that President Bush vetoed this crucial legislation, and commend you and your colleagues for your efforts to work with Michigan's Congressional delegation to ensure that the veto is overridden and Michigan children are protected.

Thank you.

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